

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

June 2012

A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

Every year, during the last week in June, we recognize and celebrate deafblind awareness week. It is a time when we recognize the achievements of deafblind Marylanders, all the while keeping in mind that there is still work to be done to achieve the Governor's vision of One Maryland.

In honor of Deafblind Awareness Week, we are dedicating this issue of the *Bulletin* to programs and services related to people who are deafblind. Below you will find more information on Deafblind Awareness Week as well as information on Maryland's Attendant Care Program and the Helen Keller National Center.

On another note, with the arrival of warmer temperatures, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene activated its [State Heat Emergency website](#). The site includes links to the State Heat Plan, Facts about Heat Related Illness, and weekly Heat Reports that provide guidance and information about deaths and illness caused by extreme heat in the region. Make sure you take the proper precautions to stay safe as the temperature rises.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the ODHH Monthly Bulletin. As always, feel free to contact us for further information about any of the articles below.

-Lisa

In This Issue

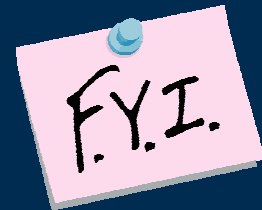
Governor O'Malley Proclaims Last Week of June Deafblind Awareness Week

Department of Disabilities' Attendant Care Program

Spotlight On: Helen Keller National Center

Governor O'Malley Proclaims Last Week of June Deafblind Awareness Week

Governor Martin O'Malley has proclaimed June 24-June 30, 2012 as Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week. The proclamation calls upon all Marylanders to observe the week and recognize the abilities and potential of our fellow citizens who are deafblind or have severe vision and hearing loss.



Governor O'Malley signs into law Bills

Impacting

Marylanders with Hearing Loss

On May 22, 2012, Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law several bills that affect people with hearing loss.

[House Bill 390 / Senate Bill 571 - Libraries - Maryland Deaf Culture Digital Library](#)

Creates a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the establishment and coordination of a Deaf Culture Digital Library to educate individuals about deaf culture in the United States and other countries; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2012.

[House Bill 1148 - Courts - Victims of Crime - Interpreters](#)

Alters specified requirements relating to the use of interpreters in court proceedings to include the appointment of an interpreter for a victim or victim's

"In Maryland, we are united in our belief in the dignity of every individual," said Governor O'Malley. "It is in the interest of the State to encourage the full participation of Marylanders with multi-sensory disabilities in our economy by fostering the employment of, and promoting housing and recreational options for, people who are deafblind - thus maximizing their opportunities for a productive life in the community of their choice."

The purpose of Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week 2012, a week proclaimed by Congressional resolutions and Presidential signature in 1985, is to change the assumption that Helen Keller is the only recognizable person who is deafblind. The intent of the week is to show the diversity, accomplishments, and potential of today's deafblind community. As a part of Maryland Helen Keller Deafblind Awareness Week, Marylanders are encouraged to increase awareness, understanding, and support for individuals who have combined hearing and vision loss.

Department of Disabilities' Attendant Care Program



The Attendant Care Program, administered by the Maryland Department of Disabilities, provides financial reimbursement to eligible individuals with significant physical disabilities so they can meet their personal assistance service needs. The participant is reimbursed a percentage of attendant care costs based on annual income, household size, and available Program funding. The goal of the

program is to supplement the cost of attendant care so that individuals with disabilities living in the community can remain employed, seek employment, enroll in a college, or transition from or avoid nursing facility placement.

Established in 1982, the Attendant Care Program has assisted hundreds of Marylanders with directing their own service needs while maximizing their spending dollars. A cost-effective program of the State, the Attendant Care Program spends no more than \$8027.50 per individual annually.

Who is eligible for services?

Applicants must meet ALL of the following requirements:

- Severe chronic or permanent physical disabilities
- Maryland resident
- Between the ages of 18 and 64
- With a total gross income of less than \$53,522 per year

AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Currently employed; or
- Actively seeking employment; or
- Currently enrolled in an institution of post secondary or higher education; or
- A nursing facility resident, but could reside in the community if attendant care service is provided; or
- Living in the community, but at risk of nursing facility placement if attendant care service is not provided

representative who is deaf or cannot readily understand or communicate the spoken English language; authorizing a victim or a victim's representative to apply for appointment of a specified interpreter.

Quick Links

[ODHH Website](#)



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ODHH on the Move

ODHH Advisory Council Meeting

June 6

11 AM - 2 PM

MSD - Columbia Campus
Columbia, MD

ODHH Town Hall Meeting

June 16

11 AM - 3 PM

Cross Pointe Church of
the Nazarene
Salisbury, MD

[Link to Flyer](#)

Save the Date

Maryland Department of
Disabilities' ADA
Celebration will be held
on July 26 at UMBC. More
details to come.

Currently, there are 170 people enrolled on the Attendant Care Program and 88 people are on the waiting list. To request an application, please contact Ms. Maxine Morris, Program Manager, at (410)767-6025 or mmorris@mdod.state.md.us.

Spotlight On: Helen Keller National Center



The mission of the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults is to enable each person who is deaf-blind to live and work in his or her community of choice. Founded in 1893 as The Industrial Home For The Blind, HKSB has been developing and operating support programs for the Blind for almost 120 years, including mobility training, preschool education, senior programs, and residential services. In 1962, HKSB inaugurated the Anne Sullivan Macy Program to serve the deafblind,

which led to the 1967 Congressional authorization that created the Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults (HKNC). HKNC's growth was further supported by the launch of the Sands Point campus in 1976. For more than forty years, the Center has been a driving force in helping people who are deafblind throughout the United States lead independent lives and work in the community of their choice. Through a network of Regional Offices, affiliate agencies, and comprehensive rehabilitation training program at its headquarters, HKNC offers an array of national programs for individuals who are deafblind, their families, and the local agencies that serve them.

Questions? Comments? Contact:

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